



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Deval L. Patrick
EEA Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett
DCR Commissioner John P. Murray

Press Release Contact: Lauren Feltch – 617-626-1413 or lauren.feltch@state.ma.us

Patrick Administration Breaks Ground on Wompatuck State Park

HINGHAM — Monday, November 10, 2014 — Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett today celebrated the groundbreaking of the Wompatuck State Park trails. This investment reflects the Patrick Administration's commitment to the improvement and preservation of outdoor recreation infrastructure, facilities and accessibility across the Commonwealth.

"Investing in outdoor recreation has been a cornerstone of the Patrick Administration," said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett. "These trails will serve not only outdoor enthusiasts, but also local residents who use Cohasset Station for their commute."

"The Wompatuck State Park Trail project enhances accessibility for hikers, bikers and commuters within the surrounding communities," said Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jack Murray. "Parks and pathways are key investments for the Patrick Administration and DCR is committed to continue developing recreational opportunities for visitors across the Commonwealth."

The improvements will open a 1.5-mile section of trail connecting the park with the Whitney Spur Rail Trail and the MBTA's Cohasset Station, improving accessibility for residents in Hingham, Cohasset, Norwell and Scituate. Several structures, previously used to assemble United States Navy ammunitions, have been deemed unsafe and will be demolished and the whole site will be remediated.

DCR acquired 124 acres of the formerly federally owned Hingham Naval Ammunition Depot Annex and added the property to Wompatuck State Park in 2004.

Since taking office, Governor Patrick has made a historic investment of more than \$360 million in land conservation focused on three goals: investing in urban parks, preserving working farms and forests and protecting large natural landscapes for habitat. This investment has resulted in the permanent protection of more than 125,000 acres of land and the renovation or creation of more than 190 parks. The new parks and open space created are within a 10 minute walk of 1.5 million residents – about a quarter of the Commonwealth's population.

"This is a great milestone for park users. We worked hard to add this area and bike trail to Wompatuck, so having it safe and now open to the public is exciting," said Senator Robert Hedlund. "Thanks to DCR and the great staff at Wompatuck for their commitment and effort to

this project. I also want to thank the Friends of Wompatuck for their advocacy and stewardship. We've made a great park even better today."

"Today's celebration, which will open up the rest of this natural gem to the public for recreation, was made possible due to the spirit of collaboration that has existed between our private and public partners", said Rep. Garrett J. Bradley. "My appreciation and thanks go out to Secretary Maeve Bartlett, outgoing Secretary Richard Davey, DCR Commissioner Jack Murray and the Friends of Wompatuck for their unflagging efforts to make today a reality."

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams and parkways. Led by Commissioner Jack Murray, the agency's mission is to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

###

Follow DCR on Twitter..... twitter.com/MassDCR
View videos on You Tube..... www.youtube.com/MassEEA
View downloadable photographs on Flickr www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/
Visit The Great Outdoors blog..... www.mass.gov/blog/environment
Visit our website..... www.mass.gov/dcr

251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 626-1250 office / (617) 626-1351 (fax)